Aventis CropSci nce



PATENT APPLICATION / DEMANDE DE BREVET

International Application N° / Demande Internationale N°:

PCT/FR98/01814

Filing Date (day/month/year) / Date du dépôt (jour/mois/année) °:

18/08/97

Title / Title :

Gène codant pour l'androctorine, vecteur le contenant et plantes transfermées obtenues résistantes aux maledies

File Ref. / Réf. Dossier: PH 97054





TRAITE DE COOPERATION EN MATIERE DE BREVETS

PCT

RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE

(article 18 et règles 43 et 44 du PCT)

Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire PH 97054	POUR SUITE voir la notification de transmission du rapport de recherche internationale (formulaire PCT/ISA/220) et. le cas échéant. le point 5 ci-après			
Demande internationale n°	Date du dépôt international(jour/mois/annee)	(Date de priorité (la plus ancienne)		
DOT / TD 00 / 0101		(jour/mois/année)		
PCT/FR 98/01814	18/08/1998	20/08/1997		
Déposant				
RHONE-POULENC AGRO et al.				
Le présent rapport de recherche internation déposant conformément à l'article 18. Une	onale, établi par l'administration chargée de la re e copie en est transmise au Bureau internationa	echerche internationale, est transmis au Il.		
Ce rapport de recherche internationale cor	mprend 3 feuilles.			
	opie de chaque document relatif à l'état de la te	chnique qui v est cité.		
-				
1. Il a été estimé que certaines re	evendications ne pouvaient pas faire l'objet d	d'une recherche(voir le cadre I).		
2. Il y a absence d'unité de l'inve	ntion(voir le cadre II).			
3. X La demande internationale contie	ent la divulgation d'un listage de séquence de	nucléotides oud'acides aminés et la		
	fectuée sur la base du listage de séquence			
二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二 二	osé avec la demande internationale ni par le déposant séparément de la demande in	nto reption a la		
	sans être accompagnée d'une déclaration :			
	allant au-delà de la divulgation faite dans la	a demande internationale telle		
	qu'elle a été déposée.			
trans	scrit par l'administration			
4. En ce qui concerne le titre, X le tex	kte est approuvé tel qu'il a été remise parle dép	osant		
<u> </u>	exte a été établi par l'administration et ala teneu			
	and a see state pair a derivation of a la toriou	in Survainte.		
5. En ce qui concerne l'abrégé,				
X le tex	de est approuvé tel qu'il a été remis parle dépo	sant		
le tex	de (reproduit dans le cadre III) a été établi par l'	administration conformement à la		
d'un regie	38.2b). Le déposant peut présenter des observ mois à compter de la date d'expédition du prése	vations à l'administration dans un délai ent rapport de recherche internationale.		
6. La figure des dessins à publier avec l'	ahráná ast la suivanto			
<u> </u>	abrege est la sulvante: érée par le déposant.	□ Augus des figures		
		Aucune des figures n'est à publier.		
parce	e que le déposant n'a pas suggéré de figure. e que cette figure caractérise mieux l'invention.			



RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE

Demande Internationale No PCT/FR 98/01814

A. CLASSEMENT DE L'OBJET DE LA DEMANDE CIB 6 C12N15/82 C07K14/435 C12N15/12 A01H1/00

Seion la classification internationale des brevets (CIB) ou à la fois selon la classification nationale et la CIB

B. DOMAINES SUR LESQUELS LA RECHERCHE A PORTE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERES COMME PERTINENTS

Documentation minimale consultee (système de classification suivi des symboles de classement) CIB 6 C12N C07K

Documentation consultée autre que la documentation minimale dans la mesure où ces documents relèvent des domaines sur lesquels a porte la recherche

Base de données électronique consultée au cours de la recherche internationale (nom de la base de données, et si réalisable, termes de recherche utilises)

Categone °	Identification des documents cites, avec, le cas échéant, l'indica	tion des passages pertinents	no. des revendications visees
Y	L. EHRET-SABATIER ET AL.,: "Characterization of novel cystomatimicrobial peptides from scorblood" THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMINORY 271, no. 47, 1996, pages 29002060972 BETHESDA, MD, US cité dans la demande voir le document en entier	rpion STRY,	1-8, 11-15, 18-21, 23-39
X Voir	la suite du cadre C pour la fin de la liste des documents	X Les documents de familles d	e brevets sont indiqués en annexe
Catégone: "A" docume consic "E" docume ou api "L" docume priorite autre "O" docume une e: "P" docume	la suite du cadre C pour la fin de la liste des documents s speciales de documents cités: ent définissant l'état général de la technique, non dére comme particulièrement pertinent ent antérieur, mais publié à la date de dépôt international rès cette date ent pouvant jeter un doute sur une revendication de le ou cite pour déterminer la date de publication d'une citation ou pour une raison speciale (telle qu'indiquee) ent se réferant à une divulgation orale, à un usage, à xposition ou tous autres moyens ent publie avant la date de depôt international, mais neurement à la date de pnorite revendiquée	"T" document ultérieur publié après la date de priorité et n'appartenena technique pertinent, mais cité po ou la théorie constituant la base "X" document particulièrement pertine	date de dépôt international ou la nt pas à l'état de la ur comprendre le principe de l'invention de l'invention revendiquée ne peut ou comme impliquant une activite nt consideré isolement mit; l'inven tion revendiquée mpliquant une activite inventive à un ou plusieurs autres le combinaison étant évidente
*Catégone: "A" docume consic "E" docume prioriti autre ("O" docume une e: "P" docume poster Date à laque	ent définissant l'état général de la technique, non dére comme particulièrement pertinent ent antérieur, mais publié à la date de dépôt international rès cette date ent pouvant jeter un doute sur une revendication de et ou cite pour déterminer la date de publication d'une citation ou pour une raison speciale (telle qu'indiquee) ent se réferant à une divulgation orale, à un usage, à xposition ou tous autres moyens ent publie avant la date de depôt international, mais	"T" document ultérieur publié après la date de priorité et n'appartenena technique pertinent, mais cité po ou la théorie constituant la base "X" document particulièrement pertine étre considéree comme nouvelle inventive par rapport au docume "Y" document particulièrement pertine ne peut être considérée comme lorsque le document est associé documents de même nature, cet pour une personne du metier	date de dépôt international ou la nt pas à l'état de la ur comprendre le principe de l'invention de l'invention int; l'inven tion revendiquée ne peut ou comme impliquant une activite nt consideré isolement int; l'inven tion revendiquée impliquant une activite inventive à un ou plusieurs autres e combinaison étant évidente ne famille de brevets

Office Européen des Brevets, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

MATEO ROSELL, A



RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE

Demande Internationale No PCT/FR 98/01814

		PCI/FR 98	7 01014
C.(suite) D	OCUMENTS CONSIDERES COMME PERTINENTS		
Catégorie °	identification des documents cités, avec,le cas échéant, l'indicationdes passages p	pertinents	no. des revendications visees
Y	EP 0 392 225 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) 17 octobre 1990		1-8, 11-15, 18-21, 23-39
	voir abrégé voir page 5, ligne 5 - page 6, ligne 31; exemple 8 voir page 23		
Α	WO 95 19443 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) 20 juillet 1995 cité dans la demande voir page 7, alinéa 3 - page 9, alinéa 2 see sequence 17, page 64-65 voir page 41, alinéa 44		12-17
Α	WO 95 11305 A (ZENECA LTD) 27 avril 1995 voir le document en entier		1-39
A	EP 0 508 909 A (RHONE POULENC AGROCHIMIE) 14 octobre 1992 cité dans la demande voir le document en entier		1,19, 22-33
A	A. DEE ET AL.,: "Expression and secretion of a functional scorpion insecticidal toxin in cultured mouse cells" BIOTECHNOLOGY, vol. 8, no. 4, 1990, pages 339-342, XP000272753 NEW YORK, NY, US voir le document en entier	V	1-19,23
А	S. MAEDA ET AL.,: "Insecticidal effects of an insect-specific neurotoxin expressed by a recombinant baculovirus" VIROLOGY, vol. 184, 1991, pages 777-780, XP000351799 SAN DIEGO, CA, US voir le document en entier		1-19,23
P,X	WO 97 30082 A (RHONE POULENC AGROCHIMIE) 21 août 1997 voir le document en entier 		1-8,34
			·

1



RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE

Renseignements relatifs aux membres de familles de brevets

PCT/FR 98/01814

Document brevet cité au rapport de recherche	Date de publication	Membre(s) de la famille de brevet(s)	Date de publication
EP 0392225 A	17-10-1990	AU 642865 AU 5218390 CA 2012778 JP 3035783 US 5614395 US 5654414 US 5689044 US 5650505 US 5789214 US 5777200 US 5767369	A 27-09-1990 A 24-09-1990 A 15-02-1991 A 25-03-1997 A 05-08-1997 A 18-11-1997 A 22-07-1997 A 08-09-1998 A 04-08-1998 A 07-07-1998
WO 9519443 A	20-07-1995	US 5614395 // AU 1249295 // EP 0733117 // US 5654414 // US 5689044 // US 5650505 // US 5804693 // US 5777200 // US 5767369 //	A 01-08-1995 A 25-09-1996 A 05-08-1997 A 18-11-1997 A 22-07-1997 A 08-09-1998 A 07-07-1998
WO 9511305 A	27-04-1995	AU 7942394 A	08-05-1995
EP 0508909 A	14-10-1992	FR 2673643 A AT 169338 T AU 652610 E AU 1144292 A CA 2061636 A DE 69226466 E EP 0879891 A ES 2118802 T IL 101115 A JP 5095789 A MX 9200915 A US 5510471 A US 5633448 A	15-08-1998 01-09-1994 10-09-1992 06-09-1992 10-09-1998 25-11-1998 01-10-1998 10-01-1997 20-04-1993 01-09-1992 23-04-1996
WO 9730082 A	21-08-1997	FR 2745004 A AU 1884397 A EP 0882063 A	02-09-1997

Expéditeur: le BUREAU INTERNATIONAL

PCT

NOTIFICATION D'ELECTION

(règle 61.2 du PCT)

Destinataire:

United States Patent and Trademark

Office

(Box PCT) Crystal Plaza 2

Washington, DC 20231

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

Date d'expédition (jour/mois/année)

18 mai 1999 (18.05.99)

Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire

en sa qualité d'office élu

PH 97054

Demande internationale no

PCT/FR98/01814

Date de priorité (jour/mois/année)

20 août 1997 (20.08.97)

18 août 1998 (18.08.98)

Date du dépôt international (jour/mois/année)

Déposant

FREYSSINET, Georges etc

L'office désigné est avisé de son élection qui a été faite:
dans la demande d'examen préliminaire international présentée à l'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international le:
10 mars 1999 (10.03.99)
dans une déclaration visant une élection ultérieure déposée auprès du Bureau international le:
L'élection X a été faite
n'a pas été faite
avant l'expiration d'un délai de 19 mois à compter de la date de priorité ou, lorsque la règle 32 s'applique, dans le délai visé à la règle 32.2b).
*

Bureau int mati nal de l'OMPI 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 G nèv 20, Suisse Fonctionnaire autorisé

F. Baechler

no de téléphone: (41-22) 338.83.38

no de télécopieur: (41-22) 740.14.35

NOTIFICATION RELATIVE A LA PRESENTATION OU A LA TRANSMISSION DU DOCUMENT DE PRIORITE

(instruction administrative 411 du PCT)

Expéditeur: le BUREAU INTERNATIONAL

Destinataire:

TETAZ, Franck Rhône-Poulenc Agro Boîte postale 9163 F-69263 Lyon Cedex 09 FRANCE

Date d'expédition (jour/mois/année) 30 septembre 1998 (30.09.98)	
Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire PH 97054	NOTIFICATION IMPORTANTE
Demande internationale no PCT/FR98/01814	Date du dépôt international (jour/mois/année) 18 août 1998 (18.08.98)
Date de publication internationale (jour/mois/année) Pas encore publiée	Date de priorité (jour/mois/année) 20 août 1997 (20.08.97)
Déposant RHONE-POULENC AGRO etc	

- 1. La date de réception (sauf lorsque les lettres "NR" figurent dans la colonne de droite) par le Bureau international du ou des documents de priorité correspondant à la ou aux demandes énumérées ci-après est notifiée au déposant. Sauf indication contraire consistant en un astérisque figurant à côté d'une date de réception, ou les lettres "NR", dans la colonne de droite, le document de priorité en question a été présenté ou transmis au Bureau international d'une manière conforme à la règle 17.1.a) ou b).
- 2. Ce formulaire met à jour et remplace toute notification relative à la présentation ou à la transmission du document de priorité qui a été envoyée précédemment.
- 3. Un astérisque(*) figurant à côté d'une date de réception dans la colonne de droite signale un document de priorité présenté ou transmis au Bureau international mais de manière non conforme à la règle 17.1.a) ou b). Dans ce cas, l'attention du déposant est appelée sur la règle 17.1.c) qui stipule qu'aucun office désigné ne peut décider de ne pas tenir compte de la revendication de priorité avant d'avoir donné au déposant la possibilité de remettre le document de priorité dans un délai raisonnable en l'espèce.
- 4. Les lettres "NR" figurant dans la colonne de droite signalent un document de priorité que le Bureau international n'a pas reçu ou que le déposant n'a pas demandé à l'office récepteur de préparer et de transmettre au Bureau international, conformément à la règle 17.1.a) ou b), respectivement. Dans ce cas, l'attention du déposant est appelée sur la règle 17.1.c) qui stipule qu'aucun office désigné ne peut décider de ne pas tenir compte de la revendication de priorité avant d'avoir donné au déposant la possibilité de remettre le document de priorité dans un délai raisonnable en l'espèce.

Date de priorité Demande de priorité n

Pays, office régional ou office récepteur selon le PCT

Date de réception du document de priorité

20 août 1997 (20.08.97) 97/10632

FR

28 sept 1998 (28.09.98)

Bureau international de l'OMPI 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Genève 20, Suisse Fonctionnaire autorisé:

Céline Faust

, ~

Hell

no de télécopieur (41-22) 740.14.35

no de téléphone (41-22) 338.83.38

AVIS INFORMANT LE DEPOSANT DE LA

COMMUNICATION DE LA DEMANDE

INTERNATIONALE AUX OFFICES DESIGNES

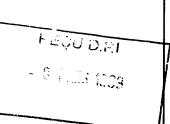
(règle 47.1.c), première phrase, du PCT)

Expéditeur: le BUREAU INTERNATIONAL

Destinataire:

TETAZ, Franck Rhône-Poulenc Agro Boîte postale 9163 F-69263 Lyon Cedex 09

FRANCE



Date d'expédition (jour/mois/année)

25 février 1999 (25.02.99)

Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire

PH 97054

AVIS IMPORTANT

Demande internationale no PCT/FR98/01814

Date du dépôt international (jour/mois/année) Date de priorité (jour/mois/année)

18 août 1998 (18.08.98)

20 août 1997 (20.08.97)

Déposant

RHONE-POULENC AGRO etc

1. Il est notifié par la présente qu'à la date indiquée ci-dessus comme date d'expédition de cet avis, le Bureau international a communiqué, comme le prévoit l'article 20, la demande internationale aux offices désignés suivants:

AU,BR,CN,EP,IL,JP,KP,KR,US

Conformément à la règle 47.1.cl. troisieme phrase, ces offices acceptent le présent avis comme preuve déterminante du fait que la communication de la demande internationale a bien eu lieu à la date d'expédition indiquée plus haut, et le déposant n'est pas tenu de remettre de copie de la demande internationale à l'office ou aux offices désignés.

2. Les offices désignés suivants ont renoncé à l'exigence selon laquelle cette communication doit être effectuée à cette date:

AL,AP,BA,BB,BG,CA,CU,CZ,EA,EE,GE,HR,HU,ID,IS,LK,LR,LT,LV,MG,MK,MN,MX,NO,NZ,OA,PL, RO,SG,SI,SK,SL,TR,TT,UA,UZ,VN,YU

La communication sera effectuée seulement sur demande de ces offices. De plus, le déposant n'est pas tenu de remettre de copie de la demande internationale aux offices en question (règle 49.1)a-bis)).

3. Le présent avis est accompagné d'une copie de la demande internationale publiée par le Bureau international le 25 février 1999 (25.02.99) sous le numéro WO 99/09189

RAPPEL CONCERNANT LE CHAPITRE II (article 31.2)a) et règle 54.2)

Si le déposant souhaite reporter l'ouverture de la phase nationale jusqu'à 30 mois (ou plus pour ce qui concerne certains offices) à compter de la date de priorité, la demande d'examen préliminaire international doit être présentée à l'administration compétente chargée de l'examen préliminaire international avant l'expiration d'un délai de 19 mois à compter de la date de priorité.

Il appartient exclusivement au déposant de veiller au respect du délai de 19 mois.

Il est à noter que seul un déposant qui est ressortissant d'un Etat contractant du PCT lié par le chapitre Il ou qui y a son domicile peut présenter une demande d'examen préliminaire international.

RAPPEL CONCERNANT L'OUVERTURE DE LA PHASE NATIONALE (article 22 ou 39.1))

Si le déposant souhaite que la demande internationale procède en phase nationale, il doit, dans le délai de 20 mois ou de 30 mois, ou plus pour ce qui concerne certains offices, accomplir les actes mentionnés dans ces dispositions auprès de chaque office désigné ou élu.

Pour d'autres informations importantes concernant les délais et les actes à accomplir pour l'ouverture de la phase nationale, voir l'annexe du formulaire PCT/IB/301 (Notification de la réception de l'exemplaire original) et le volume II du Guide du déposant du PCT.

> Bureau international de l'OMPI 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Genève 20, Suisse

Fonctionnaire autorisé

J. Zahra

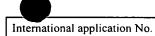
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no de téléphone (41-22) 338.83.38

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PH 97054	FOR FURTHER ACTIO	N	cation of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)				
International application No. PCT/FR98/0.1814	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 August 1997 (20.08.1997)						
PCT/FR98/01814 18 August 1998 (18.08.1998) 20 August 1997 (20.08.1997 International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12N 15/82							
Applicant	RHONE-POULEN	C AGRO					
This international preliminary exa Authority and is transmitted to the a	mination report has been propplicant according to Article	epared by this 36.	International Preliminary Examining				
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	6 sheets, inclu	ding this cover	sheet.				
been amended and are the b	nied by ANNEXES, i.e., shee asis for this report and/or shee 607 of the Administrative In:	ets containing r	tion, claims and/or drawings which have ectifications made before this Authority the PCT).				
These annexes consist of a t	otal ofsheets						
3. This report contains indications rela	ting to the following items:						
I Basis of the report							
II Priority							
III Non-establishmen	t of opinion with regard to no	velty, inventive	step and industrial applicability				
IV Lack of unity of in	vention						
V Reasoned statemen	nt under Article 35(2) with remarkations supporting such state	gard to novelty, ment	inventive step or industrial applicability;				
VI Certain documents	cited						
VII Certain defects in	the international application						
VIII Certain observation	ns on the international application	ation					
Date of submission of the demand	Date	of completion	of this report				
10 March 1999 (10.03)	1999)	13 D	ecember 1999 (13.12.1999)				
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Aut	norized officer	·				
Faccimila No	Tale	nhone No					



PCT/FR98/01814

I. Basis of the report							
1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):							
	the international	application as originally filed					
	the description,	pages1-17	, as originally filed,				
		pages	, filed with the demand,				
Ì		pages	, filed with the letter of,				
		pages					
	the claims,	Nos. 1-39	, as originally filed,				
_		Nos.	, as amended under Article 19,				
		Nos.	, filed with the demand,				
<u> </u>		Nos.	, filed with the letter of,				
		Nos.	, filed with the letter of				
\boxtimes	the drawings,	sheets/fig 1/2-2/2	, as originally filed,				
		sheets/fig	, filed with the demand,				
		sheets/fig	, filed with the letter of,				
		sheets/fig	, filed with the letter of				
2. The amend	ments have resulte	ed in the cancellation of:					
	the description,	pages					
	the claims,	Nos					
	the drawings,	sheets/fig					
		-					
3. This to go	report has been es beyond the disclo	stablished as if (some of) the arrosure as filed, as indicated in the	mendments had not been made, since they have been considered ne Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).				
	•						
4. Additional	observations, if ne	ecessary:					
	•						

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 3 citations and explanations supporting	5(2) with regard to nove ng such statement	lty, inventive step or industrial applica	bility;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-39	YES
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	16, 17	YES
	•	Claims	1-15, 18-39	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-39	YES
		Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. The following documents are referred to herein:

D1: J. Biol. Chem. 271, 1996, pages 29537-29544

D2: WO 95/19443

Claims 1-10

- 2.1 The subject matter of <u>claims 1-10</u> may be considered to be novel since the prior art does not describe a polynucleotide sequence corresponding to androctonin.
- 2.2 The subject matter of claims 1-10 does not involve an inventive step. Androctonin is described in document D1, where it is referred to as peptide A consisting of 25 amino acids and isolated from the scorpion Androctonus australis (see D1, page 29540, figure 3). The sequence of said peptide A, i.e.

 RSVCRQIKICRRRGGCYYKCTNRPY, is identical to sequence no. 1 (SEQ ID NO 1) of the present invention.

 However, it is well known that a person skilled in the art can establish a nucleotide sequence from a known peptide sequence without an inventive step being involved. Moreover, since the peptide sequence

of androctonin is known, the various nucleic acid fragments defined in general terms in the claims are merely obvious selections that a person skilled in the art would make, depending on the vector being used and the organism to be transformed.

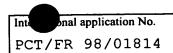
Claims 11-15

- 2.3 The subject matter of <u>claims 11-15</u> may be considered to be novel since the prior art does not describe a polynucleotide sequence corresponding to a fusion peptide including androctonin.
- 2.4 The subject matter of claims 11-15, defined in general terms, does not involve an inventive step.

 As the androctonin peptide is known (see points 2.1-2.2 above), and the signal peptides or transit peptides are also known and used to induce disease resistance in transgenic plants (see D2 and the prior art described in the application), a person skilled in the art could formulate the subject matter of claims 11-15 in general terms without an inventive step being involved.

Claims 16 and 17

2.5 The subject matter of claims 16 and 17, defined by sequence no. 3, appears to be novel and to involve an inventive step because, on the filing date of the application, no sequence identical to sequence no. 3 of the present application had been described in the prior art documents. Nor does the prior art provide any indications that render said sequence obvious to persons skilled in the art.



Claims 18-39

- 2.6 The subject matter of <u>claims 18-39</u>, which is based on the nucleotide sequence of androctonin (see point 2.1 above), may be considered to be novel.
- 2.7 The subject matter of claims 18-39, which is defined on the basis of claims 16 or 17 (point 2.5 above), may be considered to involve an inventive step.
- 2.8 However, the subject matter of claims 18-39 which is not defined on the basis of claims 16 or 17 does not appear to involve an inventive step, since the generally known technical features defining the subject matter of said claims in relation to the known peptide sequence of androctonin are obvious to persons skilled in the art (see point 2.2 above).
- 2.9 The remarks made above are based on the assumption that, in principle, the claims of the present application enjoy a right of priority as of the filing date of the priority document. If so, document WO 97/30082, which is cited as a "P, X" document in the international search report, is not part of the prior art.

PCT/FR98/01814

Certain documents cited			
ertain published documents (l	Rule 70.10)		
Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/yea	Priority date (valid claim) r) (day/month/year)
- -			
	,		
See Supplement	al Sheet		
See Supprement	iai biicce		
Non-written disclosures (Rule	70.9)		
Kind of non-written di		on-written disclosure ay/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)
- 12			



Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: VI.2

Application number WO 97/30082 is characterised in that its publication date is 21.08.97, its filing date is 17.02.97 and its priority date is 16.02.96 (PCT Rules 64.3 and 70.10).

Expéditeur:

L'ADMINISTRATION CHARGEE DE

L'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

Destinataire:

RHONE-POULENC AGRO

DPI

B.P. 9163

F-69263 Lyon Cedex 09

FRANCE

d

REÇU D.P.I.

1 7 DEC. 1999

NOTIFICATION DE TRANSMISSION DU RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

(règle 71.1 du PCT)

Date d'expédition

(jour/mois/année)

1 3. 12. 99

Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire

PH 97054-4

PCT/FR98/01814

Demande internationale No.

Date du dépot international (jour/mois/année)

18/08/1998

Date de priorité (jour/mois/année)

NOTIFICATION IMPORTANTE

20/08/1997

Déposant

RHONE-POULENC AGRO et al.

- 1. Il est notifié au déposant que l'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international a établi le rapport d'examen préliminaire international pour la demande internationale et le lui transmet ci-joint, accompagné, le cas échéant, de ces annexes.
- 2. Une copie du présent rapport et, le cas échéant, de ses annexes est transmise au Bureau international pour communication à tous les offices élus.
- 3. Si tel ou tel office élu l'exige, le Bureau international établira une traduction en langue anglaise du rapport (à l'exclusion des annexes de celui-ci) et la transmettra aux offices intéressés.

4. RAPPEL

Pour aborder la phase nationale auprès de chaque office élu, le déposant doit accomplir certains actes (dépôt de traduction et paiement des taxes nationales) dans le délai de 30 mois à compter de la date de priorité (ou plus tard pour ce qui concerne certains offices) (article 39.1) (voir aussi le rappel envoyé par le Bureau international dans le formulaire PCT/IB/301).

Losrqu'une traduction de la demande internationale doit être remise à un office élu, elle doit comporter la traduction de toute annexe du rapport d'examen préliminaire international. Il appartient au déposant d'établir la traduction en question et de la remettre directement à chaque office élu intéressé.

Pour plus de précisions en ce qui concerne les délais applicables et les exigences des offices élus, voir le Volume II du Guide du déposant du PCT.

Nom et adresse postale de l'adminstration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international

Office européen des brevets

D-80298 Munich

Tél. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d

Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Fonctionnaire autorisé

Vullo, C

Tél.+49 89 2399-8061



RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

(article 36 et règle 70 du PCT)

Référence mandataire PH 9705	Э	sier du déposant ou du	POUR SUITE A DONN	IER		fication de transmission du rapport d'examen e international (formulaire PCT/IPEA/416)
Demande		tionale nº	Date du dépot international (our/n	nois/année)	Date de priorité (jour/mois/année)
PCT/FR			18/08/1998	Oui,	iois/aririee)	20/08/1997
			B) ou à la fois classification natio	nalo	ot CIP	20/00/133/
C12N15		mationale des bievets (Cic	s) ou a la lois dassilication flatio	IIale	et OID	
Déposant						
RHONE	-POU	LENC AGRO et al.				
			ninaire international, établi p sant conformément à l'articl			tion chargée de l'examen préliminaire
2. Ce R	APPO	ORT comprend 6 feuilles	, y compris la présente feuil	le de	couverture	
 	été mo 'admir admini	difiées et qui servent de	e base au présent rapport ou xamen préliminaire internation	ı de	feuilles con	des revendications ou des dessins qui ont tenant des rectifications faites auprès de e 70.16 et l'instruction 607 des Instructions
3. Le pi	résent ⊠	rapport contient des inc	dications relatives aux points	sui	vants:	
11		Priorité				
Ш		Absence de formulatio d'application industriel	n d'opinion quant à la nouve le	eaute	é, l'activité i	nventive et la possibilité
IV		Absence d'unité de l'in	vention			
٧	\boxtimes		elon l'article 35(2) quant à la le; citations et explications à			tivité inventive et la possibilité déclaration
VI	\boxtimes	Certains documents ci	ités			
VII		Irrégularités dans la de	emande internationale			
VIII		Observations relatives	à la demande international	Э		
Date de printernation	ale	tion de la demande d'exam	en préliminaire Da	ate d'	achèvement (du présent rapport 1 3. 12. 99
		postale de l'administration c	hargée de Fo	nctio	nnaire autori:	SÉ
l'examen p		aire international: ce européen des brevets				
011	D-86	0298 Munich		alle.	F	
ු <i>පා</i>		+49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 52365 : +49 89 2399 - 4465	66 epmu d			0.89.2399.8537

N" de téléphone +49 89 2399 8537

RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

Demande internationale n° PCT/FR98/01814

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ı	Da	136	uu	ıa	νĸ	יטי נ

1. Ce rapport a été rédigé sur la base des éléments ci-après (les feuilles de remplacement qui ont été remises à l'office récepteur en réponse à une invitation faite conformément à l'article 14 sont considérées, dans le présent rapport, comme "initialement déposées" et ne sont pas jointes en annexe au rapport puisqu'elles ne contiennent pas de modifications.): Description, pages: 1-17 version initiale Revendications, N°: 1-39 version initiale Dessins, feuilles: 1/2-2/2 version initiale 2. Les modifications ont entrainé l'annulation : ☐ de la description, pages: des revendications, n° : des dessins. feuilles: 3.

Le présent rapport a été formulé abstraction faite (de certaines) des modifications, qui ont été considérées comme allant au-delà de l'exposé de l'invention tel qu'il a été déposé, comme il est indiqué ci-après

4. Observations complémentaires, le cas échéant :

(règle 70.2(c)):

RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

Demande internationale n° PCT/FR98/01814

V. Déclaration motivée selon l'article 35(2) quant à la nouveauté, l'activité inventive et la possibilité d'application industrielle; citations et explications à l'appui de cette déclaration

1. Déclaration

Nouveauté

Oui: Revendications 1-39

Non: Revendications

Activité inventive

Oui: Revendications 16,17 Non: Revendications 1-15,18-39

Possibilité d'application industrielle Oui : Revendications 1-39

Non: Revendications

2. Citations et explications

voir feuille séparée

VI. Certain documents cités

1. Certains documents publiés (règle 70.10) et / ou

2. Divulgations non écrites (règle 70.9)

voir feuille séparée

Concernant le Point V

1. Il est fait référence aux documents suivants:

D1: J. Biol. Chem. 271, 1996, pages 29537-29544

D2: WO 95/19443

Revendications 1-10

- 2.1 L'objet des <u>revendications 1-10</u> peut être considéré comme nouveau étant donné que l'état de la technique ne décrit pas de séquence polynucléotidique correspondant à l' androctonine.
- 2.2 L'objet des <u>revendications 1-10</u> n'implique pas d'activité inventive. L'androctonine est décrite dans le document D1, sous la désignation d'un Peptide A constitué de 25 acides aminés, peptide isolé à partir du scorpion *Androctonus australis*, voir D1, page 29540, Figure 3. La séquence de ce Peptide A, RSVCRQIKICRRRGGCYYKCTNRPY, est identique à la séquence n°1 (SEQ ID NO. 1) de la présente invention. Il est toutefois bien connu qu'une personne du métier peut établir une séquence nucléotidique à partir d'une séquence peptidique connue, sans qu'une activité inventive soit impliquée. Par ailleurs, la séquence petidique de l'androctonine étant connue, les différents fragments d'acide nucléique tels que définis de manière générale dans ces revendications, ne représentent que des choix évidents que la personne du métier est amenée à faire selon le vecteur à utiliser et l'organisme à transformer.

Revendications 11-15

- 2.3 L'objet des <u>revendications 11-15</u> peut être considéré comme nouveau étant donné que l'état de la technique ne décrit pas de séquence polynucléotidique correspondant à un peptide de fusion comprenant l' androctonine.
- 2.4 L'objet des <u>revendications 11-15</u>, défini en termes généraux, n'implique pas d'activité inventive. Le peptide de l'androctonine étant connu (voir Points 2.1-2.2 ci-dessus), les peptides signal ou les peptides de transit étant également connus

et utilisés pour induire une résistance aux maladies dans des plantes transgéniques (voir D2 et l'état de la technique décrit dans la demande), la personne du métier peut formuler en termes généraux l'objet des revendications 11-15 sans qu'une activité inventive soit impliquée.

Revendications 16 et 17

2.5 L'objet des <u>revendications 16 et 17</u>, défini par la séquence n°3, semble être nouveau et impliquer une activité inventive puisque, à la date du dépôt de la demande, une séquence identique à la séquence n° 3 de la présente demande n'a pas été décrite dans les documents de l'état de la technique. Il n'y a pas non plus d'indications dans l'état de la technique qui rendent cette séquence évidente pour une personne du métier.

Revendications 18-39

- 2.6 L'objet des <u>revendications 18-39</u>, qui se base sur la séquence nucléotidique de l'androctonine (voir Point 2.1 ci-dessus) peut être considéré comme nouveau.
- 2.7 L'objet des <u>revendications 18-39</u> qui est défini sur la base des revendications 16 ou 17 (Point 2.5 ci-dessus), peut être considéré comme impliquant une activité inventive.
- 2.8 Cependant, l'objet des <u>revendications 18-39</u> qui n'est pas défini sur la base des revendications 16 ou 17 ne semble pas impliquer une activité inventive car les caractéristiques techniques généralement connues qui définissent l'objet de ces revendications en relation avec la séquence peptidique connue de l'androctonine sont évidentes pour une personne du métier (voir Point 2.2 ci-dessus).
- 2.9 Les commentaires ci-dessus se fondent sur le fait que, en principe, les revendications de la présente demande jouissent du droit de priorité à partir de la date du document de priorité. Dans ce cas le document WO 97/30082 cité dans le rapport de recherche internationale sous la catégorie P,X n'est pas compris dans l'état de la technique.

RAPPORT D'EXAMEN

Demande internationale n° PCT/FR98/01814

PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL - FEUILLE SEPAREE

Concernant le Point VI

La demande WO 97/30082 est caractérisée par une date de publication du 3. 21.08.97, une date de dépôt du 17.02.97 et une date de priorité du 16.02.96 (Règles 64.3 et 70.10 PCT).

TRAITE DE COOPERATION EN MATIERE DE BREVETS



PCT

REC'D 1 6 DEC 1999

PCT

RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

(article 36 et règle 70 du PCT)

Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire PH 97054		ssier du déposant ou du	POUR SUITE A DONNER voir la notification de transmission du rapport d'examen préliminaire international (formulaire PCT/IPEA/416)						
Demande internationale n°			Date du dépot international (jour/mois/année) Date de priorité (jo		Date de priorité (jour/mois/année)				
PCT/FR	98/0 [.]	1814			20/08/1997				
	Classification internationale des brevets (CIB) ou à la fois classification nationale et CIB C12N15/82								
Déposant	Déposant								
RHONE-POULENC AGRO et al.									
1. Le pr interr	 Le présent rapport d'examen préliminaire international, établi par l'administaration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international, est transmis au déposant conformément à l'article 36. 								
2. Ce R	APP	ORT comprend 6 feuilles,	y compris la présente feuille d	e couverture.					
é l' a	 Il est accompagné d'ANNEXES, c'est-à-dire de feuilles de la description, des revendications ou des dessins qui ont été modifiées et qui servent de base au présent rapport ou de feuilles contenant des rectifications faites auprès de l'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international (voir la règle 70.16 et l'instruction 607 des Instructions administratives du PCT). Ces annexes comprennent feuilles. 								
Le présent rapport contient des indications relatives aux points suivants:									
1	×	Base du rapport							
11		Priorité							
111	L	d'application industrielle	d'opinion quant à la nouveaute	e, l'activité in	ventive et la possibilité				
łV		Absence d'unité de l'inve	ention						
V	×	d'application industrielle	on l'article 35(2) quant à la nou ; citations et explications à l'ap						
VI	×	☐ Certains documents cités							
VII		Irrégularités dans la den							
VIII Observations relatives à la demande internationale									
Date de présentation de la demande d'examen préliminaire internationale Date d'achèvement du présent rapport									
10/03/1999				1 3. 12. 99					
Nom et adresse postale de l'administration cha l'examen préliminaire international:			rgée de Fonctio	nnaire autorisé	AND THE WAY				
Office européen des brevets D-80298 Munich			Halle.	F	Process Care				
Tél. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465			·	eléphone +49 8	19 2399 8537				

RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

Demande internationale n° PCT/FR98/01814

i. Bas du rapport

Ce rapport a été rédigé sur la base des éléments ci-après (les feuilles de remplacement qui ont été remises à l'office récepteur en réponse à une invitation faite conformément à l'article 14 sont considérées, dans le présent rapport, comme "initialement déposées" et ne sont pas jointes en annexe au rapport puisqu'elles ne contiennent pas de modifications.):
 Description, pages:

1-17 version initiale Revendications, N°: 1-39 version initiale Dessins, feuilles: 1/2-2/2 version initiale 2. Les modifications ont entrainé l'annulation : ☐ de la description, pages: ☐ des revendications, n°s: des dessins, feuilles: 3. Le présent rapport a été formulé abstraction faite (de certaines) des modifications, qui ont été considérées comme allant au-delà de l'exposé de l'invention tel qu'il a été déposé, comme il est indiqué ci-après

4. Observations complémentaires, le cas échéant :

(règle 70.2(c)):

- V. Déclaration motiv éselon l'article 35(2) quant à la nouve aut é, l'activit éinventive et la possibilité d'application industrielle; citations et explications à l'appui de cette déclaration
- 1. Déclaration

Nouveauté

Oui: Revendications 1-39

Non: Revendications

Activité inventive

Oui: Revendications 16,17

Non: Revendications 1-15,18-39

Possibilité d'application industrielle Oui: Revendications 1-39

Non: Revendications

2. Citations et explications

voir feuille séparée

VI. Certain documents cités

1. Certains documents publiés (règle 70.10)

et / ou

2. Divulgations non écrites (règle 70.9)

voir feuille séparée

Concernant le Point V

1. Il est fait référence aux documents suivants:

D1: J. Biol. Chem. 271, 1996, pages 29537-29544

D2: WO 95/19443

Revendications 1-10

- 2.1 L'objet des <u>revendications 1-10</u> peut être considéré comme nouveau étant donné que l'état de la technique ne décrit pas de séquence polynucléotidique correspondant à l' androctonine.
- 2.2 L'objet des <u>revendications 1-10</u> n'implique pas d'activité inventive. L'androctonine est décrite dans le document D1, sous la désignation d'un Peptide A constitué de 25 acides aminés, peptide isolé à partir du scorpion *Androctonus australis*, voir D1, page 29540, Figure 3. La séquence de ce Peptide A, RSVCRQIKICRRRGGCYYKCTNRPY, est identique à la séquence n°1 (SEQ ID NO. 1) de la présente invention. Il est toutefois bien connu qu'une personne du métier peut établir une séquence nucléotidique à partir d'une séquence peptidique connue, sans qu'une activité inventive soit impliquée. Par ailleurs, la séquence petidique de l'androctonine étant connue, les différents fragments d'acide nucléique tels que définis de manière générale dans ces revendications, ne représentent que des choix évidents que la personne du métier est amenée à faire selon le vecteur à utiliser et l'organisme à transformer.

Revendications 11-15

- 2.3 L'objet des <u>revendications 11-15</u> peut être considéré comme nouveau étant donné que l'état de la technique ne décrit pas de séquence polynucléotidique correspondant à un peptide de fusion comprenant l'androctonine.
- 2.4 L'objet des <u>revendications 11-15</u>, défini en termes généraux, n'implique pas d'activité inventive. Le peptide de l'androctonine étant connu (voir Points 2.1-2.2 ci-dessus), les peptides signal ou les peptides de transit étant également connus

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Revendications 16 et 17

2.5 L'objet des <u>revendications 16 et 17</u>, défini par la séquence n°3, semble être nouveau et impliquer une activité inventive puisque, à la date du dépôt de la demande, une séquence identique à la séquence n° 3 de la présente demande n'a pas été décrite dans les documents de l'état de la technique. Il n'y a pas non plus d'indications dans l'état de la technique qui rendent cette séquence évidente pour une personne du métier.

Revendications 18-39

- 2.6 L'objet des <u>revendications 18-39</u>, qui se base sur la séquence nucléotidique de l'androctonine (voir Point 2.1 ci-dessus) peut être considéré comme nouveau.
- 2.7 L'objet des <u>revendications 18-39</u> qui est défini sur la base des revendications 16 ou 17 (Point 2.5 ci-dessus), peut être considéré comme impliquant une activité inventive.
- 2.8 Cependant, l'objet des <u>revendications 18-39</u> qui n'est pas défini sur la base des revendications 16 ou 17 ne semble pas impliquer une activité inventive car les caractéristiques techniques généralement connues qui définissent l'objet de ces revendications en relation avec la séquence peptidique connue de l'androctonine sont évidentes pour une personne du métier (voir Point 2.2 ci-dessus).
- 2.9 Les commentaires ci-dessus se fondent sur le fait que, en principe, les revendications de la présente demande jouissent du droit de priorité à partir de la date du document de priorité. Dans ce cas le document WO 97/30082 cité dans le rapport de recherche internationale sous la catégorie P,X n'est pas compris dans l'état de la technique.

Concernant le Point VI

 La demande WO 97/30082 est caractérisée par une date de publication du 21.08.97, une date de dépôt du 17.02.97 et une date de priorité du 16.02.96 (Règles 64.3 et 70.10 PCT).

REQUETE

PCT/FR 9 8 / 0 1 8 1 2
Demande internationale n°
Date du dépôt international
Nom de l'office récepteur et "Demande internationale PCT"

Le soussigné requiert que la présente demande internationale soit traitée conformément au Traité de coopération en matière de brevets.	Nom de l'office récepteur et "Demande internationale PCT"					
	Référence du dossier du (12 caractères au maximum)	déposant ou du mandataire (facultatif) PH 97054				
Cadre nº I TITRE DE L'INVENTION "Gène codant pour l'androctonine, vecteur contenant et plantes transformées obtenues résistantes aux maladi						
Cadre nº II DEPOSANT						
Nom et adresse: (Nom de famille suivi du prénom; pour une persofficielle complète. L'adresse doit comprendre le code postal et le l'adresse indiquée dans ce cadre est l'État où le déposant a son de n'est indiqué ci-dessous.)	onne morale, désignation nom du pays. Le pays de omicile si aucun domicile	Cette personne est aussi inventeur.				
RHONE-POULENC AGRO		n° de téléphone				
14-20 rue Pierre Baizet 69009 LYON		33 4 72 85 25 92				
		n° de télécopieur				
	•	33 4 72 85 28 43				
		n° de téléimprimeur				
Nationalité (nom de l'Etat) :	Domicile (nom de l'Eta	it):				
FRANCE	FRANCE					
Cette personne est déposant pour : tous les Etats désignés X tous les Etats désignés X les Etats-Unisd'A	gnés sauf les Etats-U mérique seulement	nisd'Amérique les Etats indiqués dans lecadre supplémentaire				
Cadre n° III AUTRE(S) DEPOSANT(S) OU (AUTRE(S)) I	• •	İ				
Nom et adresse: (Nom de famille suivi du prénom: pour une pers officielle complète. L'adresse doit comprendre le code postal et le l'adresse indiquée dans ce cadre est l'Etat où le déposant a son d n'est indiqué ci-dessous.)	onne morale, désignation nom du pays. Le pays de omicile si aucun domicile	Cette personne est :				
déposant seulement						
FREYSSINET Georges 21 rue de Nervieux		x déposant et inventeur				
69450 SAINT CYR AU MONT D'OR	inventeur seulement (Si cette case est cochée, ne pas remplir la suite.)					
Nationalité (nom de l'Etat) : FRANCE	Domicile (nom de l'Eta FRANCE	it):				
Cette personne est déposant pour : tous les Etats tous les Etats désignés les Etats-Unisd'Al	nés sauf les Etats-U mérique x seulement	nisd'Amérique es Etats indiqués dans lecadre supplementaire				
X D'autres déposants ou inventeurs sont indiqués sur une fe	uille annexe.					
Cadre nº IV MANDATAIRE OU REPRESENTANT COMMUN; OU ADRESSE POUR LA CORRESPONDANCE						
La personne dont l'identité est donnée ci-dessous est/a été désignée pour agir au nom du ou des déposants auprès des autorités internationales compétentes, comme: x mandataire représentant commun						
Nom et adresse: (Nom de famille suivi du prénom; pour une personne complète. L'adresse doit comprendre le voile postal et le r	n°de téléphone 33 4 72 85 25 92					
Franck TETAZ RHONE-POULENC AGRO		n'detélécopieur				
B.P. 9163		33 4 72 85 28 43				
69263 LYON CEDEX 09, France		n° de téléimprimeur				
Adresse pour la correspondance : cocher cette case lorsque aucun mandataire ni représentant commun n'est n'a été désigné et que l'espace ci-dessus est utilisé pour indiquer une adresse spéciale à laquelle la correspondance doit être envoyée.						

Suite du cadre n° III AUTRE(S) DEPOSANT(S) OU (AUTRE(S)) INVENTEUR(S)							
Si aucun des sous-cadres suivants n'est utilisé, cette feuille ne doit pas être incluse dans la requête.							
Nom et adresse: (Nom de famille suivi du prénom: pour u officielle complète. L'adresse doit comprendre le code pos l'adresse indiquée dans ce cadre est l'Etat où le déposant n'est indiqué ci-dessous.) DEROSE Richard 216 rue de Saint Cyr 69009 LYON	cette personne morale. désignation stal et le nom du pays. Le pays de a son domicile si aucun domicile déposant seulement						
Nationalité (nom de l'Etat) : US	Domicile (nom de l'Etat) : FRANCE						
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(54) Title: PLANT VDE GENES AND METHODS RELATED THERETO

(57) Abstract

DNA sequences encoding plant vde enzymes are provided herein. The sequences may be joined to heterologous DNA sequences for use as probes and in DNA constructs to modify the genotype of a host organism. DNA constructs and methods are provided to modify a host cell phenotype by altering the amount of photoprotection enzyme present in the host cell. In plastid containing host cells, zeaxanthin levels and sensitivity to light can be modified through alterations in the level of vde enzymes.

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PLANT VDE GENES AND METHODS RELATED THERETO

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to genes encoding plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase (vde) and methods of use related to the protein and the nucleic acid sequences. The invention is exemplified by methods of causing increased expression or decreased expression of plant vde genes in plants. Included are plants produced by the method.

INTRODUCTION

Background

1 32 1

Plant carotenoids are found in the membranes of chloroplasts and chromoplasts. They are instrumental in the photoprotective mechanisms of plants. Also, plant carotenoids have significant dietary implications. Thus, from an agronomic as well as a nutritional standpoint, study of the plant carotenoids and the enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of carotenoids is of interest.

Of particular interest are the late stages of the carotenoid biosynthetic pathway in plants, the xanthophyll cycle and its importance in photoregulation of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process that enable plants to use light energy for growth and development. Thus, the availability of light of appropriate quality and quantity (photosynthetically active radiation or "PAR") is critical for plant growth and development. Ironically, light can also damage plants because plants have limited capacity to use light. When light intensity exceeds this capacity, irreversible damage can occur.

Plants have developed various mechanisms to cope with excess light such as varying leaf orientation or developing reflective surfaces. Such mechanisms appear to be specialized phenotypic strategies that are limited to certain types of plants. One mechanism that is apparently used by all plants

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examined so far is the dissipation of excess energy as heat in the antenna (light absorbing structures) of the photosynthetic apparatus. Most of the excess energy is discarded as heat by a complex feed-back regulatory system that involves the transthylakoid ApH and formation of antheraxanthin and zeaxanthin catalyzed by violaxanthin de-epoxidase (vde) in the xanthophyll cycle. This system, termed energy dependent non-radiative energy dissipation or non-photochemical fluorescence quenching, reduces the quantum efficiency of photosystem II (PSII), helping to prevent PSII over reduction and photoinhibitory damage. In effect, this system provides a means to dump excess energy before it can damage the photosynthetic apparatus. The system has a wide dynamic range, both qualitatively and quantitatively, which enables it to function effectively over a wide-range of environmental conditions.

The ability to manipulate aspects of the xanthophyll cycle through genetic engineering techniques would permit the rapid introduction of improved plant varieties. However, it has been difficult to obtain purified fractions of the enzymes involved in the pathway and, prior to this invention, the corresponding genes have not been cloned.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

DNA sequences encoding plant vde enzymes are provided herein. The sequences may be joined to heterologous DNA sequences for use as probes and in DNA constructs to modify the genotype of a host organism. DNA constructs and methods are provided to modify a host cell phenotype by altering the amount of photoprotection enzyme present in the host cell. In plastid containing host cells, zeaxanthin levels and sensitivity to light can be modified through alterations in the level of vde enzymes.

For example, over expression of vde is expected to increase the tolerance of plants to high light, drought and temperature stress (stress conditions exacerbate the condition of excess light). Also, plants that are not currently tolerant to high light or low temperatures are expected to become more tolerant

to these stresses. Plants that are better adapted to light stress are expected to be more productive and/or more resistant to disease. Alternatively, the under expression, or inhibition of vde activity is expected to increase photosynthetic efficiency under low light. The growing range of plants, crops, trees and ornamentals, could thus be modified.

Specific plant vde's are described. In particular, a 55 kD lettuce vde having the cDNA sequence and deduced amino acid sequence as shown in Fig. 1, a tobacco vde having the cDNA sequence and deduced amino acid sequence as shown in Fig. 2, and an Arabidopsis vde having the cDNA sequence and deduced amino acid sequence as shown in Fig. 3, are described. Figure 4 provides a comparison at the amino acid level of the proteins of Figures 1-3. In this amino acid sequence comparison the trasit peptides for the three sequences are boxed. Identical amino acids are denoted by a hyphen. Gaps inserted to optimize sequence alignments are denoted with a period. The thirteen highly conserved cysteine residues are denoted with an asterisk.

Figure 5 is a comparison of the identity and similarity of pre-protein and mature protein vde. As can be seen from Figure 5, diverse vde's have sequences with about 75% sequence identity with one another at the amino acid level. Thus, vde sequences having at least about 75% homology to amino acid sequences in Fig.1, Fig.2 or Fig. 3 are also contemplated hereunder.

Nucleic acid sequences encoding a plant vde having at least about 60% sequence identity, and more preferably at least about 70% sequence identity, with the sequences in Figs. 1, 2 or 3, and are likewise contemplated herein. For instance, a comparison of tobacco and lettuce vde nucleic acid sequences give 76% identity, excluding the transit peptides. A high degree of sequence identity at the N-terminus is particularly preferred. Other related plant photoregulatory sequences having high degrees of similarity with fragments of the vde sequences shown are also contemplated.

In a different aspect of this invention, nucleic acid sequences related to the exemplified lettuce, tobacco and arabidopsis vde sequences of this invention are described with

details regarding methods to obtain such sequences from a variety of sources and their use. In addition, cDNA sequences encoding mature vde's are given as well as transit peptides, mRNA, genomic plant vdes, and plant vde regulatory regions.

In a further aspect of this invention, methods of producing vde in host cells are described. In plastid containing cells, modifications in the xanthophyll cycle, particularly in the ratio of violaxanthin as to zeaxanthin are contemplated via increased production of vde or decreased production of vde. This will have applications in the increased feed value of plants. Zeaxanthin levels are important to crops such as alfalfa whose value in part is due to xanthophyll content.

Results from studies of transgenic plants demonstrates that xanthophyll-mediated energy dissipation in LHCII apparently protects PSII against the potentially damaging effects of high light. This protection is induced by the combined effects of a thylakoid ΔpH and the presence of zeaxanthin and antheraxanthin formed by violaxanthin de-epoxidase (vde) activity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

- FIG. 1 cDNA sequence for romaine lettuce vde and deduced polypeptide sequence. The underlined sequences are those determined from peptide sequencing of purified lettuce vde. The polypeptide sequence begins at the first methionine of the open reading frame and is preceded by three termination codons in the same reading frame.
- FIG. 2 cDNA sequence for tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum cv. Xanthi) vde and deduced polypeptide sequence.
- FIG. 3 cDNA sequence for Arabidopsis thaliana (var. columbia) vde and deduced polypeptide sequence.
- FIG. 4 provides a comparison of the amino acid sequences of the proteins of Figures 1-3.
- FIG. 5 shows the percent similarity between the the proteins of Figures 1-3.
- FIG. 6 provides a comparison of hyropathy profiles for the vdes of three species.

FIG. 7 provides a time-course comparison of effects of expressed vde.

- FIG. 8 is a table showing the results of pigment analysis of leaves of control and 18 vde-antisense tobacco plants (TAS-#).
- FIG. 9 shows the results of a control plant extraction for vde.
- FIG. 10 shows the results of extraction for vde in an antisense vde plant.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase or "vde" of this invention includes any sequence of amino acids, such as a protein, polypeptide or peptide, obtainable from a plant source, which demonstrates the ability to catalyze the production of zeaxanthin from violaxanthin under plant enzyme reactive conditions. By "enzyme reactive conditions" is meant that any necessary conditions that are available in an environment (i.e., such factors as temperature, pH, lack of inhibiting substances) which will permit the enzyme to function.

By "plant" is meant any plastid-containing organism. A "higher plant" shall mean any differentiated, multi-cellular plastid-containing organism. Of particular interest are plant vde's from angiosperms, both dicotyledonous and monocotyledonous plants.

In this invention, the cDNA sequence of a lettuce (Fig. 1), tobacco (Fig. 2) and Arabidopsis (Fig. 3) vde gene are provided. Transit peptide regions are identified in Fig. 4. From these sequences, genomic sequences may be obtained and the corresponding transcriptional and translational regulatory regions determined. Also, using the lettuce and/or tobacco sequences provided, vde genes from other sources may be obtained. In particular, it is found that the N-terminal regions of the lettuce, tobacco, Arabidopsis and spinach proteins are conserved and therefore, an N-terminal peptide such as "VDALKTCACLLK" will find particular use in obtaining related sequences.

Constructs for use in the methods may include several forms, depending upon the intended use of the construct. Thus, the constructs include vectors, transcriptional cassettes, expression cassettes and plasmids. The transcriptional and translational initiation region (also sometimes referred to as a "promoter") preferably comprises a transcriptional initiation regulatory region and a translational initiation regulatory region of untranslated 5' sequences, "ribosome" binding sites." responsible for binding mRNA to ribosomes and translational initiation. It is preferred that all of the transcriptional and translational functional elements of the initiation control region are derived from or obtainable from the same gene. In some embodiments, the promoter will be modified by the addition of sequences, such as enhancers, or deletions of nonessential and/or undesired sequences. By "obtainable" is intended a promoter having a DNA sequence sufficiently similar to that of a native promoter to provide for the desired specificity of transcription of a DNA sequence of interest. It includes natural and synthetic sequences as well as sequences which may be a combination of synthetic and natural sequences.

A transcriptional cassette for transcription of a nucleotide sequence of interest will include in the direction of transcription, a transcription initiation region and optionally a translational initiation region, a DNA sequence of interest, and a transcriptional and optionally translational termination region functional in the host cell of interest. When the cassette provides for the transcription and translation of a DNA sequence it is considered an expression cassette. One or more introns may also be present. Other sequences may also be present, including those encoding transit peptides.

The use of amino acid sequences from vde peptides to obtain nucleic acid sequences which encode lettuce vde is described herein. For example, synthetic oligonucleotides are prepared which correspond to the vde peptide sequences. The oligonucleotides are used as primers in polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques to obtain partial DNA sequence of vde genes. The partial sequences so obtained are then used as

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probes to obtain vde clones from a gene library prepared from lettuce tissue. Alternatively, where oligonucleotides of low degeneracy can be prepared from particular vde peptides, such probes may be used directly to screen gene libraries for vde gene sequences. In particular, screening of cDNA libraries in phage vectors is useful in such methods due to lower levels of background hybridization.

A nucleic acid sequence of a plant vde of this invention may be a DNA or RNA sequence, derived from genomic DNA, cDNA, mRNA, or may be synthesized in whole or in part. The gene sequences may be cloned, for example, by isolating genomic DNA from an appropriate source, and amplifying and cloning the sequence of interest using a polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Alternatively, the gene sequences may be synthesized, either completely or in part, especially where it is desirable to provide plant-preferred sequences. Thus, all or a portion of the desired structural gene (that portion of the gene which encodes the vde protein) may be synthesized using codons preferred by a selected host. Host-preferred codons may be determined, for example, from the codons used most frequently in the proteins expressed in a desired host species.

One skilled in the art will readily recognize that antibody preparations, nucleic acid probes (DNA and RNA) and the like may be prepared and used to screen and recover "homologous" or "related" vde's from a variety of plant sources. Homologous sequences are found when there is an identity of sequence, which may be determined upon comparison of sequence information, nucleic acid or amino acid, or through hybridization reactions between a known vde and a candidate source. Conservative changes, such as Glu/Asp, Val/Ile, Ser/Thr, Arg/Lys and Gln/Asn may also be considered in determining sequence homology. Amino acid sequences are considered homologous by as little as 25% sequence identity between the two complete mature proteins. (See generally, Doolittle, R.F., OF URFS and ORFS (University Science Books, CA, 1986.)

Thus, other plant vde's may be obtained from the specific exemplified lettuce, tobacco and Arabidopsis sequences provided

herein. Furthermore, it will be apparent that one can obtain natural and synthetic plant vde's, including modified amino acid sequences and starting materials for synthetic-protein modeling from the exemplified plant vde's and from plant vde's which are obtained through the use of such exemplified sequences.

Modified amino acid sequences include sequences which have been mutated, truncated, increased and the like, whether such sequences were partially or wholly synthesized. Sequences which are actually purified from plant preparations or are identical or encode identical proteins thereto, regardless of the method used to obtain the protein or sequence, are equally considered naturally derived.

Typically, a plant vde sequence obtainable from the use of nucleic acid probes will show 60-70% sequence identity between the target vde sequence and the encoding sequence used as a probe. However, lengthy sequences with as little as 50-60% sequence identity may also be obtained. The nucleic acid probes may be a lengthy fragment of the nucleic acid sequence, or may also be a shorter, oligonucleotide probe. When longer nucleic acid fragments are employed as probes (greater than about 100 bp), one may screen at lower stringencies in order to obtain sequences from the target sample which have 20-50% deviation (i.e., 50-80% sequence homology) from the sequences used as probe. Oligonucleotide probes can be considerably shorter than the entire nucleic acid sequence encoding a vde enzyme, but should be at least about 10, preferably at least about 15, and more preferably at least about 20 nucleotides. A higher degree of sequence identity is desired when shorter regions are used as opposed to longer regions. It may thus be desirable to identify regions of highly conserved amino acid sequence to design oligonucleotide probes for detecting and recovering other related vde genes. Shorter probes are often particularly useful for polymerase chain reactions (PCR), especially when highly conserved sequences can be identified. (See, Gould, et al., PNAS USA (1989) 86:1934-1938.)

To determine if a related gene may be isolated by hybridization with a given sequence, the sequence is labeled to

allow detection, typically using radioactivity, although other methods are available. The labeled probe is added to a hybridization solution, and incubated with filters containing the desired nucleic acids, either Northern or Southern blots (to screen desired sources for homology), or the filters containing cDNA or genomic clones to be screened. Hybridization and washing conditions may be varied to optimize the hybridization of the probe to the sequences of interest. Lower temperatures and higher salt concentrations allow for hybridization of more distantly related sequences (low stringency). If background hybridization is a problem under low stringency conditions, the temperature can be raised either in the hybridization or washing steps and/or salt content lowered to improve detection of the specific hybridizing sequence. Hybridization and washing temperatures can be adjusted based on the estimated melting temperature of the probe as discussed in Beltz, et al. (Methods in Enzymology (1983) 100:266-285).

A useful probe and appropriate hybridization and washing conditions having been identified as described above; cDNA or genomic libraries are screened using the labeled sequences and optimized conditions. The libraries are first plated onto a solid agar medium, and the DNA lifted to an appropriate membrane, usually nitrocellulose or nylon filters. These filters are then hybridized with the labeled probe and washed as discussed above to identify clones containing the related sequences. When a genomic library is used, one or more sequences may be identified providing both the coding region and the transcriptional regulatory elements of the vde gene from such plant source.

For immunological screening, antibodies to the vde protein can be prepared by injecting rabbits or mice with the protein purified from the original plant source or expressed from a host cell, such methods of preparing antibodies being well known to those in the art. Either monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies can be produced, although typically polyclonal antibodies are more useful for gene isolation. Western analysis may be conducted to determine that a related protein is present in a

crude extract of the desired plant species, as determined by cross-reaction with the antibodies to the vde. When cross-reactivity is observed, genes encoding the related proteins are isolated by screening expression libraries representing the desired plant species. Expression libraries can be constructed in a variety of commercially available vectors, including lambda gt11, as described in Maniatis, et al. (supra).

All plants studied to date utilize the xanthophyll cycle, and thus any given plant species can be considered as a source of additional vde proteins.

The nucleic acid sequences associated with plant vde proteins will find many uses. For example, recombinant constructs can be prepared which can be used as probes or will provide for expression of the vde protein in host cells to produce a ready source of the enzyme. Other useful applications may be found when the host cell is a plant host cell, either in vitro or in vivo. For example, by increasing the amount of a respective vde available to the plant xanthophyll cycle, an increased percentage of zeaxanthin may be obtained. In a like manner, for some applications it may be desired to decrease the amount of vde endogenously expressed in a plant cell by antisense or some other reducing technology such as co-supression. For example, to improve photosynthetic efficiency of a plant under low light, decreased expression of a vde may be desired.

Thus, depending upon the intended use, the constructs may contain the sequence which encodes the entire vde protein, or a portion thereof. For example, where antisense inhibition of a given vde protein is desired, the entire vde sequence is not required. Furthermore, where vde constructs are intended for use as probes, it may be advantageous to prepare constructs containing only a particular portion of an vde encoding sequence, for example a sequence which is discovered to encode a highly conserved vde region.

As discussed above, nucleic acid sequence encoding a plant vde of this invention may include genomic, cDNA or mRNA sequence. By "encoding" is meant that the sequence corresponds to a particular amino acid sequence either in a sense or anti-

sense orientation. By "extrachromosomal" is meant that the sequence is outside of the plant genome of which it is naturally associated. By "recombinant" is meant that the sequence contains a genetically engineered modification through manipulation via mutagenesis, restriction enzymes, and the like.

A cDNA sequence may or may not contain pre-processing sequences, such as transit peptide sequences or targeting sequences to facilitate delivery of the vde protein to a given organelle or membrane location. The use of any such precursor vde DNA sequences is preferred for uses in plant cell expression. A genomic vde sequence may contain the transcription and translation initiation regions, introns. and/or transcript termination regions of the plant vde, which sequences may be used in a variety of DNA constructs, with or without the vde structural gene. Thus, nucleic acid sequences corresponding to the plant vde of this invention may also provide signal sequences useful to direct protein delivery into a particular organelle or membrane location, 5' upstream noncoding regulatory regions (promoters) having useful tissue and timing profiles, 3' downstream non-coding regulatory region useful as transcriptional and translational regulatory regions and may lend insight into other features of the gene.

Once the desired plant vde nucleic acid sequence is obtained, it may be manipulated in a variety of ways. Where the sequence involves non-coding flanking regions, the flanking regions may be subjected to resection, mutagenesis, etc. Thus, transitions, transversions, deletions, and insertions may be performed on the naturally occurring sequence. In addition, all or part of the sequence may be synthesized. In the structural gene, one or more codons may be modified to provide for a modified amino acid sequence, or one or more codon mutations may be introduced to provide for a convenient restriction site or other purpose involved with construction or expression. The structural gene may be further modified by employing synthetic adapters, linkers to introduce one or more convenient restriction sites, or the like.

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at its 5' end to a transcription initiation regulatory region such as the wild-type sequence naturally found 5' upstream to the vde structural gene. Numerous other transcription initiation regions are available which provide for a wide variety of constitutive or regulatable, e.g., inducible, transcription of the structural gene functions. Constitutive promoters such as the CaMV 35S promoter, double 35S promoter, 34S figwort promoter may be useful. Promoters which express in plastid containing cells will be of special interest. promoters are preferentially expressed in plastid containing tissues, such as the ssu promoter. transcription/translation initiation regions corresponding to such structural genes are found immediately 5' upstream to the respective start codons. In embodiments wherein the expression of the vde protein is desired in a plant host, the use of all or part of the complete plant vde gene is desired; namely all or part of the 5' upstream non-coding regions (promoter) together with the structural gene sequence and 3' downstream non-coding regions may be employed. If a different promoter is desired. such as a promoter native to the plant host of interest or a modified promoter, i.e., having transcription initiation regions derived from one gene source and translation initiation regions derived from a different gene source, including the sequence encoding the plant vde of interest, or enhanced promoters, such as double 35S CaMV promoters, the sequences may be joined together using standard techniques.

Expression of the vde transcript was followed in market romaine lettuce leaves that were dark adapted for an undetermined period of time. The same level of transcript was detected in both yellow leaves and rapidly expanding green leaves. However, a greater transcript level was detected in mature green leaves. Two hybridizing transcripts were observed for each sample indicating the possibility that the upper larger transcript may be processed to the slightly smaller transcript (1.7 kb) having the greater level of hybridization. The increased level of transcript in mature green leaves of lettuce may be due to two possible reasons: higher expression occurs in

tissues with a higher density of fully developed chloroplasts or expression may be regulated by light intensity since the mature green leaves receive a higher intensity of light than the immature leaves which are partially shielded in the center of the head of lettuce. Hence, use of the vde promoter may be particularly useful in the transcription of vde nucleic acid sequences or for the expression of other nucleic acid sequences of interest.

Regulatory transcript termination regions may be provided in DNA constructs of this invention as well. Transcript termination regions may be provided by the DNA sequence encoding the plant vde or a convenient transcription termination region derived from a different gene source, for example, the transcript termination region which is naturally associated with the transcript initiation region. Where the transcript termination region is from a different gene source, it will contain at least about 0.5 kb, preferably about 1-3 kb of sequence 3' to the structural gene from which the termination region is derived.

Plant expression or transcription constructs having a plant vde as the DNA sequence of interest for increased or decreased expression thereof may be employed with a wide variety of plant life, particularly, plant life where light regulation or zeaxanthin levels are important. Plants of interest include, but are not limited to ornamental plant varieties, field and forage crops, including alfalfa and trees. Depending on the method for introducing the recombinant constructs into the host cell, other DNA sequences may be required. Importantly, this invention is applicable to dicot and monocot species alike and will be readily applicable to new and/or improved transformation and regulation techniques.

The method of transformation in obtaining such transgenic plants is not critical to the instant invention, and various methods of plant transformation are currently available. Furthermore, as newer methods become available to transform crops, they may also be directly applied hereunder. For example, many plant species naturally susceptible to

Agrobacterium infection may be successfully transformed via tripartite or binary vector methods of Agrobacterium mediated transformation. In many instances, it will be desirable to have the construct bordered on one or both sides by T-DNA, particularly having the left and right borders, more particularly the right border. This is particularly useful when the construct uses A. tumefaciens or A. rhizogenes as a mode for transformation, although the T-DNA borders may find use with other modes of transformation. In addition, techniques of microinjection, DNA particle bombardment, and electroporation have been developed which allow for the transformation of various monocot and dicot plant species.

Normally, included with the DNA construct will be a structural gene having the necessary regulatory regions for expression in a host and providing for selection of transformant cells. The gene may provide for resistance to a cytotoxic agent, e.g. antibiotic, heavy metal, toxin, etc., complementation providing prototrophy to an auxotrophic host, viral immunity or the like. Depending upon the number of different host species the expression construct or components thereof are introduced, one or more markers may be employed, where different conditions for selection are used for the different hosts.

Where Agrobacterium is used for plant cell transformation, a vector may be used which may be introduced into the Agrobacterium host for homologous recombination with T-DNA or the Ti- or Ri-plasmid present in the Agrobacterium host. The Ti- or Ri-plasmid containing the T-DNA for recombination may be armed (capable of causing gall formation) or disarmed (incapable of causing gall formation), the latter being permissible, so long as the vir genes are present in the transformed Agrobacterium host. The armed plasmid can give a mixture of normal plant cells and gall.

In some instances where Agrobacterium is used as the vehicle for transforming host plant cells, the expression or transcription construct bordered by the T-DNA border region(s) will be inserted into a broad host range vector capable of

replication in *E. coli* and *Agrobacterium*, there being broad host range vectors described in the literature. Commonly used is pRK2 or derivatives thereof. See, for example, Ditta, et al., (Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., U.S.A. (1980) 77:7347-7351) and EPA 0 120 515, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Alternatively, one may insert the sequences to be expressed in plant cells into a vector containing separate replication sequences, one of which stabilizes the vector in *E. coli*, and the other in Agrobacterium. See, for example, McBride and Summerfelt (Plant Mol. Biol. (1990) 14:269-276), wherein the pRiHRI (Jouanin, et al., Mol. Gen. Genet. (1985) 201:370-374) origin of replication is utilized and provides for added stability of the plant expression vectors in host Agrobacterium cells.

Included with the expression construct and the T-DNA will be one or more markers, which allow for selection of transformed Agrobacterium and transformed plant cells. A number of markers have been developed for use with plant cells, such as resistance to chloramphenical, kanamycin, the aminoglycoside G418, hygromycin, or the like. The particular marker employed is not essential to this invention, one or another marker being preferred depending on the particular host and the manner of construction.

For transformation of plant cells using Agrobacterium, explants may be combined and incubated with the transformed Agrobacterium for sufficient time for transformation, the bacteria killed, and the plant cells cultured in an appropriate selective medium. Once callus forms, shoot formation can be encouraged by employing the appropriate plant hormones in accordance with known methods and the shoots transferred to rooting medium for regeneration of plants. The plants may then be grown to seed and the seed used to establish repetitive generations.

The invention now being generally described, it will be more readily understood by reference to the following examples which are included for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the present invention.

EXAMPLES

Example 1 - Lettuce vde cDNA

number is U31462.

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Vde was purified from romaine lettuce (Lactuca sativa L. cv Romaine) chloroplasts and peptides from a tryptic digest along with the N-terminus were sequenced (Rockholm, Plant Physiol. (1996) 110:697-703). Two peptides (N-terminus and tryptic fragment #15, shown in Fig.1) were used to develop the oligonucleotides

5'-GAYGCHYTBAAGACHTGYGC-3' (216-fold degeneracy) and

5'TTGVARRTTDGGRATRAT-3' (144-fold degeneracy).

The partial cDNA for vde was amplified by 35 cycles of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) containing 25 pmol of each primer and lettuce cDNA using an annealing temperature of 50°C. The PCR product was subcloned into pGEM-7Zf (Promega) by bluntend cloning and sequenced. A cDNA library was constructed from poly(A)+ RNA isolated from a pooled sample of various age romaine lettuce leaves using the Timesaver cDNA Synthesis Kit (Pharmacia) and ligated into lambda-ZAPII (Stratagene). A total of 2.5 x 10⁵ recombinant plaques were screened with the PCR product labeled by random priming and positive clones were plaque purified followed by in vivo excision of the plasmid. The cDNAs were subcloned into the Notl site of pGEM-5Zf and both strands of cDNA were sequenced completely using an Applied

The vde cDNA encompasses an open reading frame encoding a 473 amino acid protein with a calculated Mr of 54,447. The deduced protein contains an 125 amino acid putative transit peptide for transport into the chloroplast lumen where the enzyme is localized (Hager, Planta (1969)89:224-243). This was verified by in vitro transcription/translation of two vde (vde1:-234 to 1526 bp and vde2:-65 to 1578 bp of Fig. 1) cDNAs which produced a 55 Kd product on a sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)-polyacrylamide gel. The N-terminus of the mature vde

Biosystems Model 373A automated sequencer. The Genbank accession

protein (amino acid #126) was determined by N-terminal sequencing of purified vde from romaine lettuce. Therefore, mature vde consists of a 348 amino acid protein with a calculated Mr of 39,929 and a calculated pI of 4.57.

The primary structure of the deduced mature vde exhibits some characteristic features. The protein is hydrophilic overall with 57.2% of the total amino acid residues having polar side chains. Three interesting domains were identified in the deduced mature vde including a cysteine rich domain, a lipocalin signature and a highly charged domain. In the first domain 11 of the 13 total cysteines in the mature vde are present suggesting that this is most likely the site where dithiothreitol (DTT), a known inhibitor of vde, has its effect. The cysteines probably form more than one disulfide linkage since partial inhibition of vde activity with DTT results in an accumulation of antheraxanthin. The deduced mature vde also contains a lipocalin signature, a domain identified in a number of diverse proteins that bind small hydrophobic molecules. For example, crustacyanin, a protein from lobster carapace which contains a lipocalin signature, binds the carotenoid astaxanthin. Similarly, this domain may play a role in binding the substrate violaxanthin. In the third domain approximately 47% of the residues have charged side chains. The most striking feature of this domain is the high concentration of glutamic acid residues; 27.6% of the residues in this domain (69.2% of the total in the mature vde) are glutamic acids whereas only 2% are aspartic acids

Figure 4 provides a detailed analysis of the deduced amino acid sequence of vde. The top portion provides a comparison of the deduced amino acid sequences of vde from three plant species. The transit peptides are located in the boxed region. Identical residues are indicated by hyphens (-). Gaps introduced to maximize sequence alignment are indicated by periods (.). Asterisks (*) identify the 13 cysteine residues that are conserved between the three sequences.

The bottom map of Figure 4 shows the three domains identified. The amino acid spanning regions for lettuce vde are indicated below the domains.

Figure 6 provides hyropathy profiles for the vdes from three species.

Example 2 - Expression of Lettuce vde cDNA in E.coli

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Authenticity of the lettuce vde cDNA was confirmed by expression of the fragment vde2 in E. coli. Vde2 was subcloned in both sense and antisense orientations with respect to lacZ into the Notl site of pGEM-5Zf and transformed into E. coli DH5alpha. All cultures were incubated and induced with 10 mM IPTG (Bugos, Plant Mol Biol. (1991) 17:1203-1215). Following the 2 hr induction, the cells were centrifuged at 4000xg for 10 min at 4°C. The cells were resuspended in 3 ml 50 mM Tris (pH 7.4), 1 mM EDTA and lysed using an ultrasonic cell disrupter equipped with a micro-probe for 10 cycles (30 sec on/30 sec off) while being cooled in an ice bath. The resulting extract was centrifuged at 1 0,000xg for 10 min at 4°C and the supernatant was collected for determining vde activity using the in vitro assay and absorbance change at 502nm minus 540nm (Yamamoto, Methods Enzymol. (1985)110:303-312). The pellet was washed with 3 ml 50 mM Tris (pH 7.4),1 mM EDTA and centrifuged. The pellet was resuspended in 3 ml buffer and assayed. All assays contained 100 ul E. coli extract or pellet resuspension. For quantification of xanthophyll pigments, the reactions were stopped at various times with addition of solid Tris and the xanthophylls were extracted 3 times with diethyl ether. The ether was dried under a stream of N2 and the xanthophylls were solubilized in 100 µl 90% acetone followed by HPLC analysis (Gilmore, J. Chromatogr. (1991)543:137-145).

Extracts from E. coli expressing the fragment orientated with lacZ (sense) had strong vde activity whereas no detectable activity was observed from extracts of E. coli transformed with vde2 in antisense orientation or pGEM-5Zf alone. Furthermore, addition of DTT, a strong inhibitor of de-epoxidase activity, abolished all vde activity. DTT (3mM, final conc.) was added

directly to the assay 50 seconds after ascorbate (30mM, final conc.) addition. Specific activity of the enzyme was 64.9 ± 5.4 nmols violaxanthin deepoxidized/min/mg protein. Trace activity was detected in the membrane fraction of vde2 sense suggesting that some of the enzyme was not washed away following lysis or that lysis was not complete. An attempt to express the vde1 fragment was unsuccessful. *E. coli* transformed with vde1 subcloned in pGEM-5Zf and orientated with lacZ did not grow.

To verify the products of de-epoxidation, the reaction with vde2 sense extract was stopped at various times and the xanthophylls were analyzed by HPLC. Antheraxanthin and zeaxanthin appeared consistent with sequential de-epoxidation and concomitant with the rapid decrease in violaxanthin, similar to observations reported over three decades earlier for de-epoxidation in lima bean (Phaseolus leunatus) leaves exposed to high light (Yamamoto, Arch. Biochem. Biophys. (1962)97:168-173). The specific activity of the enzyme was 19.4±0.9 nmols violaxanthin de-epoxidized/min/mg protein. This is the first unequivocal evidence that the same enzyme catalyzes the two-step mono de-epoxidation reaction.

Example 3 - vde in Other Plants

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Western analysis of vde from chloroplasts of various C_3 plants and expressed vde in $E.\ coli$ demonstrate that the N-terminus is conserved.

Intact chloroplasts were isolated (Neubauer, *Plant Physiol*. (1992)99:1354-1361) and lysed with five freeze/thaw cycles using liquid N₂ (Hager, *Planta* (1975)88:27-44). Expression of vde2 in E. coli DH5-alpha was as described in Example 2 and the cells were lysed using the freeze/thaw method. Proteins were resolved on a 12% SDS-polyacrylamide gel and electrophoretically transferred to PVDF. Color development was performed following incubation with alkaline phosphatase-conjugated secondary antibodies. Protein was estimated using a prepared reagent (Biorad) and bovine gamma globulin as the standard.

The blot was probed with a polyclonal antibody prepared against a synthetic peptide derived from the N-terminus of

lettuce vde (VDALKTCACLLK). Vde migrates with an approximate size of 43 kD.

The mature vde from market romaine lettuce, tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum L. cv Xanthi) and market spinach (Spinacia oleracea L.) all migrate with approximately the same Mr of 43K. The antibody recognized vde in these three plant species demonstrating that the N-terminus is conserved. Expressed vde2 in E. coli migrated at the same M_r as the romaine lettuce vde whereas extracts from E. coli containing only pGEM-5Zf produce some minor cross-reacting proteins, none of which having a M_r of The M_r 's of the above vde proteins are in agreement with the calculated M_r of the deduced mature vde (39.9K). interesting observations are evident from vde expressed in E. The first is that the E. coli expressed vde produced many immunoreactive bands of lower molecular weight. Reasons for this may be due to some processing occurring at the C-terminus of the protein by E. coli (since the antibody recognizes the Nterminus) or due to translational pausing. The second is that the bacterial expressed vde protein migrates at the same molecular weight as mature vde from romaine lettuce and not as the expected size of the deduced vde preprotein (54.4K) with the transit peptide. This suggests that E. coli may recognize the chloroplast transit peptide and cleave it. The N-terminus of the bacterial expressed vde will need to be sequenced to determine the actual site where cleavage is occurring. A similar observation was also reported for the nuclear-encoded chloroplast enzyme acetolactate synthase from Arabidopsis when expressed in E. coli.

Figure 7 shows the kinetics of absorbance change demonstrating expression of active violaxanthin de-epoxidase in $E.\ coli\ DH5$ (top of Fig. 7). Expression was assayed from vde2 constructs in both sense and antisense orientations with respect to lacZ along with $E.\ coli$ containing the vector only (pGEM-5Zf). DTT (3mM, final concentration) was added directly to the assay 70 seconds after ascorbate (30 mM, final concentration) additioin. Specific activity of the enzyme was 64.9 ± 5.4 nmols violaxanthin de-epoxidized min -1 mg. protein -1.

The bottom of Figure 7 is a timecourse of xanthophyll conversions by expressed vde2 (sense construct) in $E.\ coli.$ Specific activity of the enzyme was 19.4 ± 0.9 nmols violaxanthin de-epoxidized min -1 protein -1.

Example 4 - Effects of Expression of vde in Plants

In Figure 8, pigment analysis of leaves of 212 control tobacco plants (Ct-#) is provided, as well as the mean percentage of violaxanthin which is de-epoxidized. Also provided by Figure 8 is the pigment analysis of leaves of 18 vde-antisense tobacco plants (TAS-#).

Tobacco plants were transformed with an antisense construct of the tobacco vde cDNA under control of the CaMV 35S promoter (pB1121) using Agrobacterium tumefaciens LBA4404. A total of 40 antisense plants were analyzed with 18 showing various levels of inhibition of de-epoxidation.

Relative pigment concentration for tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum L. cv. Xanthi) leaves was measured by leaf disks punched from tobacco leaves that were dark adapted for a few hours. One leaf disk (dark adapted) was extracted with acetone and analyzed by HPLC while another was light induced by exposing the disk to 1800 umol m -2 s -1 white light for 20 min while the leaf disk was floating on water in a water-jacketed beaker cooled at 20°C. Following the light treatment, the leaf disk was extracted and analyzed by HPLC.

Two vde-antisense tobacco plants (TAS-32 and TAS-39) were recovered that had undetectable levels of zeaxanthin following illumination with bright white light. Low levels of antheraxanthin (~2-3%) were present in some dark-adapted leaves and are assumed to represent incomplete epoxidase activity.

In Figures 9 and 10, results are provided from a comparison of measurements on a tobacco leaf from a control plant (Ct-30) and a vde-antisense plant (TAS-5), both of which were dark adapted for 24 hours. Under low light conditions, three leaf disks were punched from each leaf. One leaf disk (dark adapted) was extracted and analyzed by HPLC.

The remaining two leaf disks were pre-illuminated with 500 umol m -2 s -1 red light for 15 minutes. One of these disks was then extracted and analyzed by HPLC while the other was placed in the dark for 10 minutes prior to fluorometry and HPLC analysis.

It has also been observed that in tobacco plants where lettuce vde has been overexpressed from a 35S construct, flowering is delayed, and flowers are slightly larger.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated DNA sequence encoding plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase.

- 2. The DNA sequence of Claim 1 wherein said violaxanthin de-epoxidase DNA sequence is joined to a heterologous nucleic acid sequence.
- 3. A recombinant DNA construct capable of directing the transciption of RNA in a plant cell, wherein said construct comprises in the order of transcription, a plant transcription initiation region, the violaxanthin de-epoxidase encoding sequence of Claim 1, and a transcriptional termination region.
- 4. The DNA sequence of Claim 1 having at least about 70% homology at the DNA level to a sequence selected from the group consisting of the nucleic acid sequences shown in Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.
- 5. The DNA sequence of Claim 4, wherein said sequence is selected from the group consisting of the nucleic acid sequences in Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.
- 6. The DNA sequence of Claim 1, wherein said sequence encodes at least about the twenty N-terminus amino acids of a protein selected from the group consisting of the plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase proteins in Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.
- 7. The DNA sequence of Claim 6, wherein said sequence encodes a plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase protein selected from the group consisting of the proteins in Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.

8. The DNA sequence of Claim 1, wherein said sequence encodes the amino acids VDALKTCACLLK.

- 9. A method of modifying the violaxanthin de-epoxidase levels in a plant, said method comprising growing a plant transformed by a construct according to Claim 3.
- 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said encoding sequence is in sense orientation.
- 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein said construct further comprises a plastid translocation sequence.
- 12. The method of Claim 9 wherein said encoding sequence is in an antisense orientation with respect to regulatory elements in said construct.
- 13. A method of modifying the sensitivity of a transgenic plant to light comprising growing a plant transformed by a construct according to Claim 3.
- 14. The method of Claim 11 wherein violaxanthin deepoxidase activity is increased resulting in increased zeaxanthin and antheraxanthin production.
- 15. The method of Claim 12 wherein violaxanthin deepoxidase activity is decreased resulting in decreased zeaxanthin and antheraxanthin levels in said plant.
- 16. The method of Claim 14 wherein said increased zeaxanthin and antheraxanthin levels results in said plant being tolerant of increased light levels, as opposed to a non-transformed control plant of the same type.
- 17. The method of Claim 15 wherein said decreased zeaxanthin and antheraxanthin levels results in said plant being

intolerant of light levels which are tolerated by a non-transformed control plant of the same type.

- 18. A transgenic plant with modified sensitivity to light as a consequence of the activity of an introduced construct which operates to alter the zeaxanthin or antheraxanthin levels in cells of said transgenic plant.
- 19. A plant, plant cell or other plant part comprising a construct according to Claim 3.
- 20. A plant, plant cell or other plant part produced by the method of Claim 9.
- 21. A plant, plant cell or other plant part produced by the method of Claim 11 wherein flowering of said plant is delayed as compared to flowering in a control plant not produced by said method.
- 22. A plant, plant cell or other plant part produced by the method of Claim 11 wherein flowers of said plant are larger as compared to flowers of a control plant not produced by said method.

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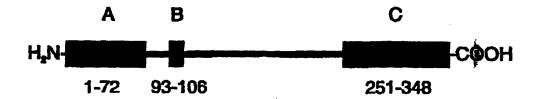
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CTGC	GCI	CGI	'GGA	GAG	:AA	TGA	GAA	GAC	AGT	'GGA	AGA	€ندل	TGA	AAG	GAT	'AA'	'CGI	'AAA	AG	1200
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TGAC	CTI	GTI	CCA	GAG	:ATT	GGC	TGA	AGG	ATT	TAA	TGA	ACT	'GAA	GCA	AGA	CGA	GGA	GAA	TT	1320
T	L	F	Q	R	L	A	E	G	F	N	E	L	K	Q	D	E	E	N	F	426
rcgt	GAG	AGA	GTI	`AAG	TAA	AGA	AGA	GAT	GGA	GTT	TTT	GGA	TGA	GAT	CAA	AAT	GGA	AGC	AA	1380
V	R	E	L	S	K	E	E	M	E	F	L	D	E	I	K	M	E	A	s	446
GTGA	GGT	TGA	AAA	ATI	GTI	TGG	GAA	AGC	TTT	GCC	AAT	CAG	GAA	GGT	CAG	GTA	GAA	ACA	AG	1440
E	V	E	K	L	F	G	K	A	L	P	I	R	K	V	R	*				462
AACC	ACC	ATT	GTT	GTA	CAA	ACT	ATA	TTA	TAC.	ATA	.CTG	TGT	TCG	GTT	CAT	'ATA	AAG	TAA	TA	1500
PT TT	TGT	'ACA	CAG	TCA	TCA	TCA	TTC	CAT	AAC.	AAT	TGG	ATA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA			1555

FIGURE 3 2/2

		_
Tobacco	MALAPHSNIFLANHETIKYYVGEKLPGHKRYSMGWEDYFGSIVVAKICS 🕏	50
Arabidopsis	M-V-TCFT-PCHDRIF88.D-GI-RLGITRK	3:
Lettuce	MSL-TVCKE-ALNL-AR-PCNEHRS.GQPPTN-IMH	43
		1
Tobacco	RIPRYFRKSPRICCGLDSRGLQLF.SHGKHNLSPAHSINGNVPKCNSGCK	99
Arabidopsis	ngt-llk-lppiq-ad-rttggrserpapr-gfskgipdivplp	81
Lettuce	-snngyfn-f-lftsyktsefsd-shcrdk-q1.csidtsfebigrfd	90
Tobacco	fpkdvalmvwekngqfaktaivaifilsvaskada	134
Arabidopsis	SknelkblitaPlll-Lvg-lacaflivps	113
Lettuce	LKRGMT-1LBKQ-RIQLLVCTFVIVPRV	125
		l
	** * * * * * *	
Tobacco	VDALKTCTCLLKECRLELAKCISNPACAANVACLQTCNNRPDETECQIKC	50
Arabidopsis	AA	50
Lettuce	AIAB	50
	* *	
Tobacco	GDLFENSVVDBFNECAVSRKKCVPRKSDVGDFFVPDPSVLVQKFDMKDPS	100
Arabidopsis	N-NISN	100
Lettuce	QQ	100
Mohages	A CHARLES AND	- 40
Tobacco Arabidopsis	GKWFITRGLNPTFDAFDCQLHEPHTE.ENKLVGNLSWRIRTPDGGPFTRS	149 150
Lettuce	YS	149
paccuce	15	147
Tobacco	AVQKFVQDPKYPGILYNHDNEYLLYQDDWYILS8KVENSPEDYIFVYYKG	199
Arabidopsis	R-	200
Lettuce	TPh	199
Tobacco	RNDAWDGYGGSVLYTRSAVLPESIIPELQTAAQKVGRDFNTFIKTDNTCO	249
Arabidopsis		250
Lettuce	N-KKSN-TS	249
5 -1		
Tobacco	PEPPLVERLEKKVREGERTIIKEVEEIEEEVEKVRDKEVTLFSKLF	295
Arabidopsis	AITI-VEVEKGRT-MQR-A	300
Lettuce	TAKLLAV <u>EVEK</u> T-MQR-L	299
Tobacco	egfkelordeenflrelskeemdvldglkmeateveklfgralpirklr	344
Arabidopsis	NKQV	349
Lettuce	QVKEI-NE-Q	348



- A Cysteine-rich domain
- B Lipocalin signature
- C Highly charged domain

Percent Identity and Similarity* of Pre-protein VDE

	Lettuce	Tobacco	Arabidopsis
Lettuce		67 (78)	69 (82)
Tobacco	69	c _{DNA}	68 (81)
Arabidopsis	66	68	

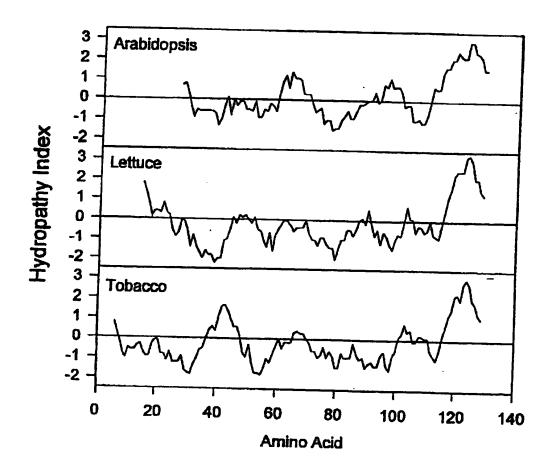
^{*}similarity values are in parentheses

Percent Identity and Similarity* of Mature VDE

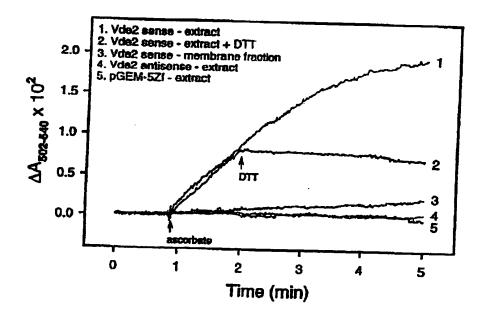
	Lettuce	Tobacco	Arabidopsis
Lettuce		82 (90)	83 (91)
Tobacco	76	Protein CDNA	83 (92)
Arabidopsis	74	77	

^{*}similarity values are in parentheses

FIGURE 5



Hydropathy profiles of the putative transit peptide for the three vde deduced polypeptide sequences using an average moving interval of 11 residues.



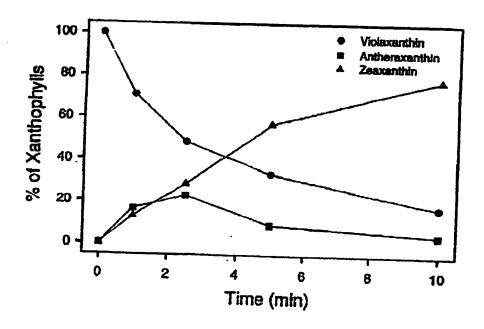


FIGURE 7

64.67 1.54 29.55 6.25 29.07 7.78 67.44 0 26.73 7.78 82.55 2.33 34.50 13.25 70.60 2.85 23.14 5.46 76.82 1.55 29.35 7.92	w 4 w	68.21 62.74 78.83 80.11 67.44	336.12	0.30	136.85	
		78.93 80.11 67.44 71.85		0.40	131.78	80.
		71.85	312.05 311.38	0.36	150.08 151.50	9.28
			345.73	० ० दे दे	130.05	80.4
	38.44	84.88 86.19	298.38 311.07	0.35	138.67 138.95	282
	0 42.68	73.45	351 <i>57</i> 343.25	0.39	139.58 133.81	67.2
	0 78.66	107.54 112.91	323.93 315.07	0.37	138.29 128.30	28.5
	0 45.24	· 78.37 82.51	334.20	0.00 \$ \$	13285 131.55	81.8
28.27 8.16	34.18	63.41	346.45 346.91	9 9 2 2	130.38	58.6
59.66 1.73 28.47 4.93	91.61	61.39 63.01	357.63	0.45	127.62 124.80	193
75.91 1.74 31.43 8.74	37.66	77.65	315.40 312.80	0.37	144.24	89.
77.93 0 26.28 8.07	0 41.30	77.83	335.78 331.38	0.43	127.17	88.3
78.07 2.99 27.44 10.10	0 47.92	82.06 85.46	358.33 352.88	0.44 0.43	128.05 120.89	66.3

Mean = 62.4 ± 5.0

N = 9'-cis-neoxanthin V = violaxanthin A = entheraxanthin Z = zeaxanthin L = lutein Chia = chlorophyll a Chib = chlorophyll b

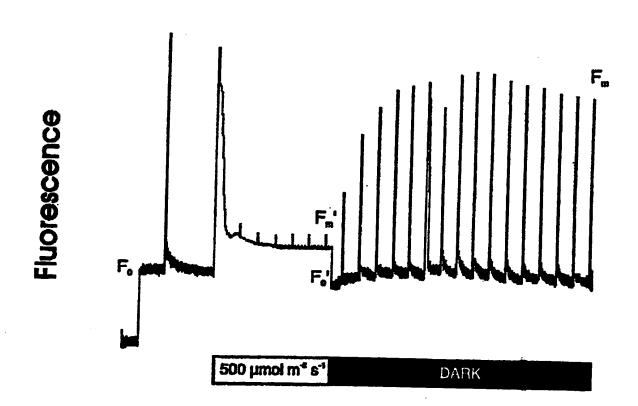
Plant	Plant Treatment	2	>	4	2	V+A+Z	7	Chibrichia	88-Carotene	%V De-epoxidized	% inhibition of De-spoordeffon
TAS-32	\$ <u>\$</u>	74.10	78.98	2.18	00	76.98 53.37	325.75	0.42	138.45	3.7	8 4
TAS.30	Ş	8	01	c	c	9				ţ	
	E	75.08	56.39	2.70	, 0	59.09	32.23	0.40	± ± 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500	4.7	82.5
TAS-21	Dark	75.78	53.18	0	0	53.19	335.21	0.45	132.85		
	Light	77.92	43.90	7.30	9.37	60.57	326.90	0.45	130.33	17.5	72.0
TA8-5	Dark	67.82	79.21	3.43	0	22.52	300.82	0.39	139.00		
	Light Light	69.72	62.31	14.66	8.27	85.24	300.63	0.40	137.13	21.3	65.9
TAS-17	Dark	74.89	54.54	30.	•	65.62	317.69	0.41	143.42		
	Eg.	74.00	49.88	8.49	8.53	66.91	325.32	0. \$	139.28	22.7	83.6
TAS-13	Dark	77.92	49.33	1.27	0	50.60	339.63	0.45	135.38		
	råt.	78.02	37.82	4. 26.	7.18	49.84	340.45	0,45	132.78	23.3	62.7
TAS-6	Dark	74.42	55.77	0	0	65.77	340.84	÷.	138.77		
	Ē	74.95	40.27	9.69	13.89	88.83	332.00	4.0	135.38	Z7.B	55.4
TA8-37	Dark	73.05	59.18	124	0	60.42	323.30	0.39	135.81		
	Ę	71.38	38.97	14.48	9.98	63.43	313.46	0.38	134.62	34.1	45.3
TAS-3	Dark	74.04	80.25	1.78	0	62.01	318.38	0.43	138.89		
	Tg.	76.98	39.26	7.41	14.33	61.00	322.14	4 .0	138.00	34.8	4
TAS-36	Dark	69.77	77.88	1.42	0	79.28	285.52	0.36	151.33		
	Ligh Light	70.74	48.73	12.78	12.81	74.30	308.06	96.0	151.38	37.4	40.1
TAS-35		75.69	63.24	1.06	0	64.20	342.09	0.42	130.30		
	E C	75.78	39.48	10.38	17.48	67.35	337.57	0.42	128.88	37.8	39.7
TAS-4	Dark	73.61	68.23	1.3	0	69.54	321.12	0.42	135.43		
	rg S	7323	42.07	8.95	17.84	68.83 8	320.33	0.42	131.73	38.3	38.6
TAS-9	Dark Cark	72.28 73.28	52.57 31.72	1.75	0 18.59	54.32 56.50	324.02 317.11	0.42	140.21 138.33	39.7	36.4

FIGURE 8 2/3

29.6	28.8	25.0	24.8	23.7
43.9	4.4	46.8	6.8	47.8
133.21	135.87 133.77	135.12 131.32	127.39 128.86	131.12 128.86
0.40 0.40	0.41	0.41	0.42	0.41
321.37 322.04	329.67 331.17	329.72	345.04	326.06
72.83 74.95	62.74	64.58 66.21	61.38 61.80	67.18 73.93
21.09	0 19.57	0 23.63	23.01	30.41
1.81	1.77 8.83	2.04 9.10	1.72	1.79 8.26
71.02 39.82	61.97 34.45	62.54 33.28	59.64 31.68	65.39 34.28
72.55	71.68	72.15	75.0 9 76.28	72.35
Der Light	E Sa	E Park	22	Dark
TA8-7	TA9-38	TAS-16	TAS-18	TAS-34

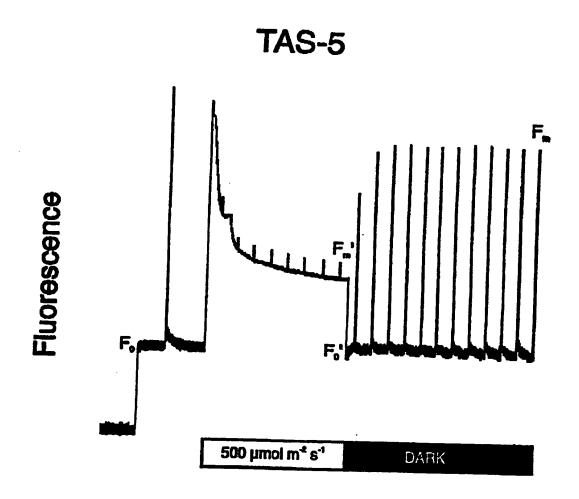
N = 9'-c/s-neoxanthin V = violaxanthin A = antheraxanthin Z = 2eaxanthin L = lutein Chia = chlorophyll a Chib = chlorophyll b All values are relative to chlorophyll a (mmol mol' Chla) except Chib/Chla which is (mol/mol).

Ct-30



·	Dark-adapted	Pre-illuminated	Post-fluorescence Analysis
V	64.28	51.77	44.98
A Z	1 .99 0	6.16 10.17	11.10 13.77
V+A+Z	66.27	68.10	69.85
De-epoxidation (%)		19.5	30.00
(Fm/Fm') - 1 (Fo/Fo') - 1			2.20 0.15

All values are relative to chlorophyll a (mmol mol 1 Chia).



	Dark-adapted	Pre-illuminated	Post-fluorescence Analysis
V A	67.51	NA	65.38
Z	0	NA	2.14
- V+A+Z	0	NA	0
TOTAL CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY O	67.51	NA	67.52
Da-epoxidation (%)		NA	3.20
(Fm/Fm') - 1 (Fo/Fo') - 1			1.34
ruroj•1			0

All values are relative to chlorophyll a (mmol mol Chia).

NA - Not assayed